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TRENTON BARRACKS



Sketch

of the

TRENTON BARRACKS

- New Jersey -

Ву

Edwin Robert Walker

1911

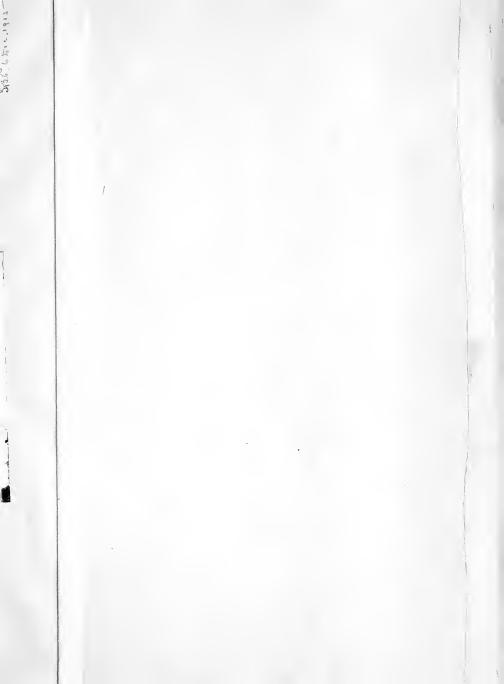
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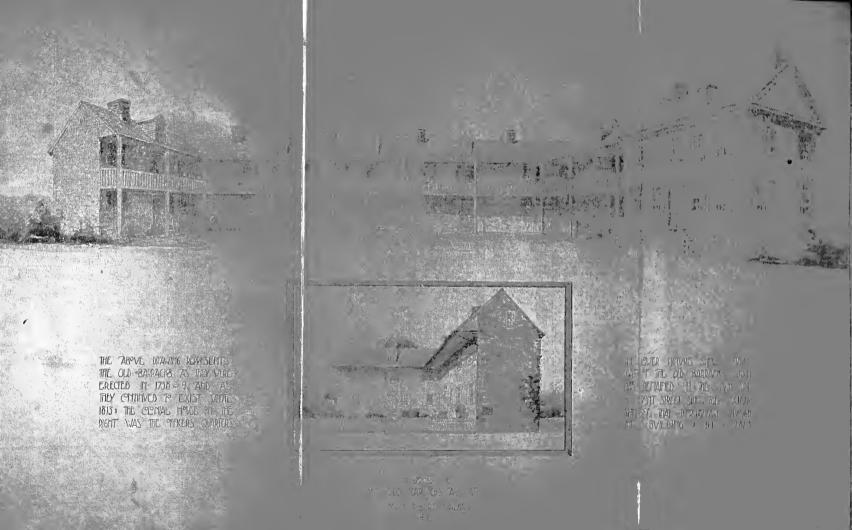
By Dr. Carlos E. Godfrey.

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Carlos E. Goderey Un 1912









VICE CHANGELLOR WALKER PRESENTS DRAWING OF OLD RARRACKS TO ASSOCIATION

Reproduction of Original Structure is Made by Art School Man Under Diraction of Mr. Walker, Who Also Offers Comprehensive

Historical Sketch

Edwin Chancellor Walker, at a meeting of the Old Barracks Association today, presented to that organization a beautiful drawing of the Old Barracks showing the structure as it stood when first erected. before its partial dismantlement to make way for Front Street.

The drawing was made at Mr. Walker's direction by Henry R. Mac-Ginnis of the School of Industrial Arts. On presenting the picture Mr. Walker offered a comprehensive historical sketch of the famous old building.

The Old Barracks Association is composed of the following ladies:

President, Mrs. J. Murray Forst; vice president, Mrs. John A. Sloan; secretary, Mrs. Harvey M. Voorhees; treasurer, Mrs. Edwin Robert Walker; trustees, Mrs. Henry W. Green, Mrs. Welfing G. Sickel, Mrs. Thomas Winans, Mrs. John L. Kuser, Mrs. Frank S. Katzenbach, Sr., Mrs. Cornelius Hook, Mrs. Marla H. Conard, Mrs. John D. Paussett, Mrs. S. Duncan Oliphant, Mrs. Jonathan H. Blackwell, Mrs. James M. Green and Mrs., A. C. Oli-

The members are: Mrs. S. C. Allison, Mrs. Josephine Y. Breese, Mrs. J. H. Blackwell, Miss Clara Blackwell, Mrs. J. C. Bloom, Mrs. W. H. Brokaw, Mrs. William E. Bissell, Mrs. Thomas Mrs. William E. Bissell, Mrs. Thomas Craven, Mrs. Charles H. Cook, Mrs. Maria Conard, Mrs. James O. Cle-phans, Miss Anna L. Dayton, Mrs. William L. Dayton, Mrs. C. B. Dahigren, Mrs. S. M. Dickinson, Mrs. Ed-ward S .Dunham, Mrs. Daniel J. Bech-tel, Mrs. W. Meredith Dickinson, Miss Amy Edwards, Mrs. T. J. Falkenburg, Mrs. J. Murray Forst, Mrs. John D. Faussett, Mrs. A. D. Forst, Mrs. George M. Foster, Mrs. Anna W. Golding. / Mrs. Elmer E. Green, Mrs. Henry W

Green, Mrs. James M. Green, Mrs. J.

Robert Voorhees, Mrs. E. R. Walker, Mrs. ld Bar- Thomas Winans, Miss Sarah Wood, Miss Ellen P. Wood, Mrs. George B. Yard.

The Vice Chancellor's sketch accompanying the drawing follows:

the Old Barracks Association, Trenton, New Jersey, Mrs. J. Murray Forst, President.

Dear Madame-Ever since the unveiling of the tablets at the Old Barracks on June 20, 1909, in which cere-monies I had the honor to participate, I have thought that your Association should be in possession of a picture of the structure as it stood when f. st. rected and before its partial demois-tion by the opening of Front Street westerly from Willow Street, and the conversion of the northerly wing running eastward into dwelling houses. A fact not hitherto generally known and concerning which the belief has been both ways, is, that the old Colonial stone and brick dwelling house on the northwest corner of Front and Willow streets was part and parcel of the or-iginal Barracks and was the officers' quarters. My idea of the desirability of the Association having a picture of the historic structure has crystallized into practical form, and I have had an accurate drawing of it made by Mr. Henry R. MacGinnis, of the School of Industrial Arts, which drawing I herewith present to the Association, and beg its acceptance at their hands. The picture as you will notice exhibits the Barracks as they originally stood, and also shows the portion still standing, now owned and preserved by your Association.

On this occasion it seems to me fitting that some account of the historic old structure should be given that it may be preserved in concrete form and save trouble hereafter to those who would explore the various sources of information which I have examined in order to write a succinct and veritable history of these Barracks. Therefore, with your leave, I will now proceed to an account of this matter, pointing out the source of authority for every fact disclosed, that it may be easily verified.

The reason for the building of the Barracks was set forth in my address Barracks was set forth in thy address on the occasion of the tablets cere-monies, in which I said: For a time preceding the year 1757, the war cry' of the allies of France was heard upon the then frontier of our country; in parts now accessible in a few hours by our modern methods of transportation, but then remote. Borne of their fears, the desire of the colonists that suitable protection be afforded against the expected incursions of the savage Indians, found expression in petitions to the Legislature for the erection of barracks, in which to house the troops of Britain and of the colony, mobilized for defensive purposes, and at the same time to case the burden of supporting soldiers quartered in the house, of the

prayers of the petitions the Legislature made an appropriation for the erection of these very Barracks among others and they stand today, if not the only certainly the best preserved, of the de-fensive fortresses built in 1757-1758.

I should have stated that a portion of the Barracks stood as originally erected. I now know that they are the only ones standing in anything like their pristine condition,

In the winter of 1757, a petition was sent to the general assembly of the Providence by magistrates, freeholders and inhabitants of the town of Trenton and other places adjacent in the county

of Hunterdon, which recited: "That altho we your Petitioners

do with truly Loyal and gratefull Hearts acknowledge how much we Owe to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and his Parliament, for furnishing us with repeated supplys of Troops at this Criticall Junc-ture of Affairs when our all is threatened and endangered by our Inveterate and Potent Enemy, in Conjunction with surrounding tions of Cruel and deceitfull Savages. And altho we are chearfully willing to exert the utmost of our power to render these his Majesties Troops perfectly useful, answer the just end for which they were designed, in proportion

Yet such is the Scituation of Trenton being so great a thoroughfare, and consequently so many soldiers continually passing and repassing upon their Severall Commands, and Quartered upon us Night and day, that unless by the Assistance of this Honorable House we can hy some wholesome Law and legal Remedy be eased of this present Distress, the Country will be no longer able to bear the Burden, nor the Officers have it in their Power to keep their stragling Sol-diers under due Command and Subjection.

"We shall not take upon us to dictate to this Honourable House what should be the method of this Remedy, but hope we may presume to offer our Sentiments, that if we could be provided with con-venient Barracks it would answer all ends both as to the conveniency and safety that would redound to the Troops, as well as the great case and advantage it would be to

the Subject. "We therefore your Petitioners Humbly request that this Honourable House would speedily take into Consideration and enable us to erect and Build such sufficient and Convenient Barracks for the pur-Convenient Earracks for the purpose aforesaid or to give us such other adequate Remedy, in such Measure, and with such Power & Authority, and with such Claipes, Proviso's and restrictions as to this Honourable House, in their wisdom shall still meet and fit.

"And your Petitioners as in duty Found shall aver Pray &"."

Bound shall ever Pray, &c.

This petition was signed by persons. many of whom have descendents no living in Trenton and vicinity, and believe it will be of interest to have the signers' names fully copied and set out. For convenience I have arranged them alphabetically. They are as follows:

Alex Anderson John Anderson Josiah Appleton Charles Axford, Jr. Benj. Biles Edman Beakes Chas. Pettit
Jno. Barnes Jos. Phillips
Gideon Bickordika David Price

Aza'h Hunt Willson Hunt Neal Leviston Thomas Moore W. Morris Edward Paxton

VICE CHANCELLOR WALKER.

building harracks for quartering sol-diers. (Minutes for wastering 1758 pages 12 and 13.) pages 12 and 13.

On Friday April 7, 1758 Mr Smith from the conduites brought in a bill for the huilding of barracies which was wend and ordered to a second reading on Saturday. April 3, 1758, the Ongossed bill entitled. An fact for suidding of Euracia within this Colony and for precenting spirituous Thingars being soft to common Soldiers without tave from project Authority and for other purposes there in mentioned, was read and passed and it was ordered. ther purposes there in mentioned, was read and passed and it was ordered that Mr. Nevill and Mr. Read carry, the full to the Council new the Sensors of concurrence. On Thursday, will 15 1558 oursesting was received from the Council by Mr. Asmield occuping the bound of the bound of the within the council for the bound of the second to the bound of the council of the council of the council of the council of the following the council of the council of the following the following the council of the following the council of the following the council of the following the followi

sembly, the Speaker with the House asterded. "When His Honour has pleased to Give his Assent to the Bull Entituded an Act for Eudling of Burl-ricks within this ("dony," &c. (Journal of the Provincial Council, N. J. Archives, vol. 17, p. 195.)

The act thus passed provided that the treasurers of the colony naw unto

the treasurers of the colony pay unto Hugh Hartshorn, Thomas Scattergood, William Skeels, John Allen, Joseph Yard, Theophilus Severus, Reuben Runion, Heury Fisher, Joseph Mount/ Samuel Nevill, Thomas Borton, John Smyth, Robert Ogden, Cornellus Hats. held and Jacob Pehart, such sum or sums of money, as they might think he leaved. The torus detection in herecastry for erecting and building for leaved, the torus between the combinered men, at each of the respective places of Enrington. Trenton, but places of Enrington. Trenton, Perth Amboy, New Brunswick and pictures of it which have ever been plablished, namely, three sides of a holding order with necessary conveniences; and further that Andrew Johnson, James Hude, Richard Salter, Robert Lawrence, Charles after which time until the partial deurenal, William Morris, John Johnson, edition of the building for the opening held and Jacob Dehart, such sum or

Miller and Richard Smith were appointed trustees for the colony of Now Jersey in whose names the re-spective deals of the grounds should spective decils of the grounds should be taken, to and for the use of herricles for the questring of seldiers whenever the might be sent by proper cuttingity to reside in any of the places

General Stryker informs us that soon after the passage of the above mentioned for the ground at the west and of Front Street where the river road (which is now State Street, turn-ing south through what is now Wiling South through what is now Willow Street, was purchosed from Mrs.
Sarch ('high), whose father, Joseph
Peter purchased the lot in a tract
of the recys from James Trent, son of
William Trent, and that the erection
of the Betracks was commenced on
Msy 31, 175, (The old Parracks, See,
pages 10, 11 and 11). This deed apteens never to gave been recorded, i
come a diagont search for it in th
office of the Secretary of State where
Leeds were recorded at that time, with
the assistance of brank Transue, Esquand
Mr. Charles S. Airkin, of that oftice, but was unsuccessful. Though tice, but was unsuccessful. Though act in all of the places provided for. act in all or the places provided for framely. Ferlington, Trenton, Perth Amboy, New Ermsswick and Elizabeth-Town out the deed for the Rurington betracks, dated June 3, 1758, appears to their been recorded (Book or Deeds, off, O. page 290, Secretary of State's office).

of State's office).

The committee of the Provincial Assembly were quite right in their surmises that the expenses of building would very inner large seconding to the place where the building was to be erected, as I find in the minutes of Assembly 0.600, bases 52, 511, that, the bacracks at Perth Amboy cost 2.465-2-7, at Burlington, 2.2643-9-2, at Blizabeth-Town, including furnishing, 2.3559-7-34, at Trending, 1.040-14-2, plus T2.146-6-9, there being a record of two payments with reference to our Barracks.

The building of the Trenton Barracks was pushed so rapidly that more than one-half of them were filled with soldiers in Documber 1758 and they were fully completed in March 1759. In October 1759, the Burracks were occupied by a regiment of Highlanders whose peculiar dress created much interest amon sthe peculic of the town (The Od Burracks, we mage 12). We come now to the interesting question of the old adound house of the northwest corner of Front and Willow streams, denored Striker suys that in December 1759 a small addition was built to the Earracks for the use exclusively of the others in charge of the English troops. The old Burracks & C., page 12). was pushed so rapidly that more than

&c. page 12

the beign 12.1

The Barracks as you know, were a cored in the torm of three sides of a heliow square, the main building running north and some with two wings, one at the northerly and the other at the south its outher so that extending eastward, cannot Stylee says it was some anticey of steep, undersed, two species in helps, the main toulding and far in helps, the main toulding and far in the two wines such as feet in least the two wines and as feet in least the country of the far in the style of the same between the country to the page 12 far into between the country to the page 12 far into the page 13.

The cass Williams technology of the Vard Vard War Abre actions of similar the still stracks of the still stracks the still stracks the Vardant Sur Kur 1855 ongest 1753, at a session of stature at Burlington

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of Front Street the appearance of the building must have been unchanged and included the officers' quarters, which were, ir fact, the colonial house and included the oliters quarters, which were, ir fact, the colonial house on the northwest corner of Willow and Front Streets. I assume that General Stryker was cornect when he says that the olicers quarters were built in becomber, 1769, although he does not disclose the source of this authority, nor does he mention the colonial building as being those quarters. He doubtless assumed that that was a fact-known to those who were conversing with local history. However, in the twenty-six years that have elapsed since his pampille, was written, this fact, if ever generally known here, has been practically burled with the older inhabitants who have passed away, and is almost entirely unknown to the twing Trentonians of today. I was able to find only one person who could assure me of the historical fact that assure me of the historical fact that this building was the officers" quarters and part and parcel of the Barracks built in 1759, and that was Miss Eme-ine R. Johnston, of 124 West Front Street, whom I interviewed last August (1910). Alias Johnston was then nearly 89 years of age, and in full possession so years of age, and in full possession of her faculties. She fold me her family moved into this very house in 1875, when she was in her lifteenth year and that she had her sister resided in the house until the time of the war sister, who is now deceased, continued to reside these many years afterwards. Miss Johnston informed, me not only that she had always understood that the old house was part of the Barracks and occupied by the British officers, but hat a daughter of Conrad Kottz, who ted on the west side of South War-ren Street between State Street of Front Street during the revoluand Front Street during the revolu-tionary war (See General, Stryker's Treuton 100 Years Ago, page 11), and who was 16 years old at the time of the bathe of Treuton, and who when a widow by the name of Robinson whose bust mame she had, forgotten, but what by the name of "Aunty" whose bust mame she had forgotten, but who wont by the name of "Annty" Robitson) called upon the Johnston family in 1838, when they first moved into the old house, and in conversation, told than that the house in which they were living was standing there during the Revolutionary War and was occupied by the officers in command of the troops quartered in the Barracks. Miss Johnston also informed me that when she lived in the house there was an from plate in the fireplace in the kitchen about one yard square, with the British coar-of-arms upon it, the lion and the unicorn being distinctly remembered by her. Many of the older people of Trenton are acquainted with Miss Johnston and knew her sister, and will remember the private school which there conducted in the old house for several decades.

for several decades.

Not, the information imparted to me by the venterable and respected Miss Jollston is, it stems to me, perfectly conclusive of the question under examination. Here is a person who tells as that the old house vis the officers, marters at the Bacracks, not because at tradition handed down to her for several dispersions and from the lips at one who was true to the stimenty received dispersions and from the lips at one who was true to the stimenty received dispersions and from the lips at one who was true to the facilities. Furthermore doubtross are one would have installed in iron plate bearing the Eritish consistential in the laws soon after the few of thours. War, the decline against England heits, indexes for many stars there the loss of the conflict. This padoubtedly the house would not have been thailt when it is to a residence disagree that don't the Europeks until

of the store that time the Earna is a series in the control of the rather plans reterred to, for they are in duplicate, one on each side of the same sheet of paper, and I have had them photographed. These photographs I also send you along with this communication, and beg your acceptcommunication, and bes your accept-ance, of the same. From inspection it would appear that the plans are not the working plans from which the Barracks were built in 1758-9, but that they were imade at a later date and for a different purpose, as I will now proceed to show. The French and Indian war ended with the establish-ment of nearly with France, in 1763. ment of peace with France in 1763. During the year 1765 the building seem to have been unoccupied and the attention of the General Assembly was called to the fact in May, and they ordered that the perishable articles therein should be sold and the building kept in repair and rented. William Clayton and Abraham Hunt were appointed commissioners to carry out these orders of the Legislature and they immediately sold the furniture and rented the building and premises, a clause in the lease requiring them to be given up at any time on suitable notice of the Governor that they were needed for the use of British soldiers. (The Old Barracks, &c. pages 12 and 13). Now it will be observed by looking at the photographs of the plans that the building was divided into rooms, which are numbered, and a price set opposite the number of each room. It is obvious that there was no one in Trenton in the colonial period who would for any reason or purpose desire to rent the barracks as an entirety, and therefore it clearly appears that the building was divided into rooms for the purpose of renting to families and others, and this arrangement must have been made in or about 1765 and continued down to 1776. Therefore this plan must have been made not earlier than seven nor later than seventeen years after the erection and completion of the Barracks, and must have been made by a man who was contemporary with the structure and knew when he drew the plans and marked indelibly upon them as he did "officers' house," that he was making a correct drawing and truly stating a fact concerning the colonial mansion on the corner of Front and Willow streets

Digressing for a few minutes from

ton on Reiday the 18th day of November, 1757.

Present
The Homble—Charles Re. 1 m.
Smith Samuel Smith Laver of Smith Samuel Smith Laver of Smith Majests Scouncil.

His Excellency led theory of Council two letters he rad a terminate of the Earl of Sh bourne one of Smajesty Sprith all Secretarials State, dated at White Hall before the Council two letters he rad a terminate of the Smajesty Sprith all Secretarials State, dated at White Hall before the Council two letters he rad State, dated at White Hall before the first his 1767, and captal of the Sale before the first his 1767, and captal of the Sale before the first his 1767, and captal of the sale down of this said Act, which are it the following words with the commodating the King's Trought of the following words with the following word effects and in your fall whereas he are not rendering the Governor and Council of the weight of the Province for the Springer words which and the following words with the following words with the following words with the following words where the following words with the ring them not to the Act of E ment above recited but to Usage of the Province for the several Articles with which your Majestys Troops are to be supplied and limiting the Money to be paid

by the said Province, on Account of the also Service, to the Sum of the hundred Pounds for each of the five Barracks in the said Province.
For these Reasons as this Act of the Lordslature of New Jersey does not make provision either in the Mode, or for the Extent allowed. the Act of Parliament above referred to, We do humly recommend it to your Majesty to signify your Royal disallowance of this

Which is most humbly submitted

Whitehall May 8th 1767.

Clare
Geo: Rice
Wm Fitzherbert
Thos Robinson.
At a Court at St. James's the 13th
day of May 1767.

Present

(Seal of the Privy

The Kings Most Excellent

Majesty
His Royal High Earl of Harness court
the Duke of York Earl of Hester
ArchBishop of Earl of BesborCanterbury ough

Earl of Hillsborough Lord President Earl of Shel-

Duke of Bolton Viscount Falmouth Duke of Queens- Viscount Bar-

bury rington
Duke of Argyle Viscount Clare
Marquis of Bishop of LonGranby don

Granby don
Lord Steward Lord Berkley of
Stratton

Lord Chamber- Lord Bathurst

Earl of Denbigh Lord Sandsy
Earl of, Shafts- Mr. Treasurer of
bury
Earl of Litchfield Jas Stuart MeEarl of MarchWellsbore Ellis
Facult

mont Esqr
Earl of Bristol Sir Gilbert Elliot
Master of the
Rolls

Whereas by Commission under the Great Seal of Great Britan, the Governor Council and Assembly of his Majesty's Province of New Jersey are authorized and impowered to make, Constitute and Ordinances, for the publick Peace, Welfare and good Government of the said Prvince; which Laws, Statutes and Ordinances are to be, as near as conveniently may be, as near as conveniently may be agreeable to the Laws and Statutes of this Kingdom and to be transmitted for his Majesty's Royal approbation or disallowance, And Whereas in pursuance of the said Province, in 1766 and transmitted for his Majesty's Royal approbation or disallowance, And Whereas in pursuance of the said Province, in 1766 and transmitted Entitled as follows, vizt

'An Act appointing Commissioners for supplying the several Barracks Erected in this Colony with Furniture and other necessaries for accommodating the Kings 'Troops in or marching thro' this Colony and for defaying other intidental Charges.'

Which Act having been perused and considered by the Lords Commissrs for Trade and Plantations and by them presented to his Majesty at this Board as proper to be disallowed, his Majesty was thereupon this Day pleased, with the Advice of his Privy Council to Declare his disallowance of the said Act. And pursuant to his Majesty's Royal Pleasure thereupon Exproseed, the said Act is hereby disallowed, declared Void and of none Effect Whereof the Governor or Commander, in Chief of his Majesty's said.

Province of New Jersey for the time being, and all others whom it may concern, are to take notice and govern themselves accordingly."

(See Journal of Governor and Council, N. J. Archives, vol. 17, page 459).

Returning to the subject of our narrative I perhaps cannot better tell of the nse and occupation of the Barracks; during the Revolutionary War than by here inserting that part of the inscription on the inside tablet above referred to, which covers the revolutionary period, and is as follows:

"For a short time preceding the bittles of Trenton and Assunpink it (the Barracks) was occupied by British troops, Hesslans, Provincial recruits for the service of the Crown, and Tory refugees, and during the remainder of the war by troops of the Continental Line, State Militia and their French Allies."

For three years after the war of the revolution the Barracks were disused, and on June 1, 1786, the Legislature directed the commissioners of this State to sell all the barracks and lands attached to them. (The Old Barracks, &c., page 14).

By deed dated February 18, 1787 (Hunterdon County clerk's office, volume 1 of deeds at page 222), Moore Furman, one of the commissioners for the State sold the Trenton Barracks to William Ogden and William Patterson. Moore Furman was a distin-guished Jerseyman of the late colonial and early state epochs. He was Deputy Quarter Master General of the New Jersey State Troops during the Revolutionary War and was an all round man of affairs. One of his descendants was the late Capt. liam E. Hunt, of the United States Navy, and his present day descendants in Trenton are of the families of Green, Hilson and McIlvaine. Some five years after he sold the Barracks as Commissioner for the State, Moore Furman acquired the property individually by conveyance from William Ogden and William Patterson and their wives, by deed dated March 30, 1792, (Hunterdon County clerk's office, volume 1 of deeds, page 661). The old Barracks and their grounds have all times since the last mentioned date been owned by private individuals, first in their entirety, and afterwards

in divided form. In the course of my investigation endeavored to ascertain the exact date of the demolition of that part of the Barracks through which Front Street was extended when opened westward from Willow Street to Delaware Street. General Stryker in his "Old Bar-racks at Trenton," page 14, says that racks at Trenton," page 14, says that this was done in the year 1813. endeavored to ascertain the exact date in 1813, and the source of authority for the extension of Front Street, and with the assistance of Mr. Harry B. Salter, city clerk of Trenton, I excouncil for that year (1813) but found nothing relating to Front Street. With the aid of Mr. Abram Swan, Jr., city engineer, I examined the old atlases and maps in his office, but we could find nothing bearing on the question.

Mr. John D. Faussett, assistant state
Ilbrarian, very kindly examined the
files of the newspapers covering every period during which the street may have been opened, so far as any state ment recorded in print seemed to indicate, but found nothing on the sub-ject. I desire to make my acknowledgements to Mr. Faussett for hirther

and other assistance in making research concerning the matter treated of in this article.

in this article.

In 'Raum's History of Trenton, at p. 271, it is said that Front Street was continued to the State House yard directly through the Old Barracks in 1801, making two separate buildings of

it instead of one as theretofore.
This diversity of dates between Gen. Stryker and Mr. Raum perplexed me, and I undertook by a search of the records for conveyances both here and at Flemington, Hunterdon County, for you know that Trenton was in Hunterdon until Mercer County was formed in 1838, to ascertain when lots were in 1838, to ascertain when hots well first conveyed on Front Street includ-ing any part of the old Barracks, in the hope and expectation of finding that the street was laid out as a private enterprise by the owner of the entire tract, and not by virtue of any public authority, and thus, approximately at least, to ascertain the date of its opening. In this I was disapproximately as the object in the record till. pointed, as a break in the record title occurs between the years 1792 and 1815. The last recorded conveyance of the Barracks lot to any one was that to Moore Furman in 1792, above mentioned. The next conveyance of mentioned. The next conveyance of any part of the premises was in 1815, and is made by the heirs of Sanuel W. Stockton. There is no conveyance of record here or at Flemington showing any divestiture of title out of Moore Furman or any devolution of title upon Samuel W. Stockton. I am indebted to John T. Temple and Alexander Trapp, Esqs., lawyers, of this city, for most extensive and laborious searches of the records at Trenton and Flemington with regard to this matter. They, however, found that in 1793 the surveyors of the highway under and by virtue of proceedings in the Hunterdon County Court of Common Pleas laid out Front Street westerly from willow Street to the State House lot as a highway, the lines of which passed through the Old Barrocks. This is perfectly apparent from the beginning point of the new road, and its course as described in the return of the survevors, corresponding as it does with the courses in deeds of lands bordering on the street. A copy of the return taken from Road Book. "A," Hinterdon County, page 187, is as follows:

"Road fr. ye end of)
Front Street in)
Trenton to ye State)
House Lot. &c.

House Lot, &c.

We the Surveyors of the Highways of the Townships of Trenton, Maidenhead & Hopewell, being legally called by order of the Interior Court of Common Pleas for the County of Hunterdon to lay a road fr. the end of Front Street in the City of Trenton to the State House Lott, & "we after viewing the premises & hearing the allegations of all parties do agree to lay a road forty-two feet wide as follows: Beginning at the end of Front Street afso, near the Earracks from thence running in the middle of the Road North seventy degrees west, four chains & seventy links to the State House Lott, thence North twenty-two degrees East, three chains & forty-nine links out into the road that leads from Abrm Hunt's to Beatty's ferry and that the said road be opened on or before the first day of September next.

And we the said Surveyors being also called by the afsd order to vacate a certain Alley running between the Lotts of Abr. Appleton & Isaac Peace, and we do agree

to take up & vacate the s'd alley to take up & vacate the s'd alley as follows. Beginning at the end of said Alley at the Southeast corner of said Abr. Appleton's Lott & we do agree to take up & vacate the same until it intersects the afs'd new road. In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands & seals May 27th, 1793.

John Riggs, Israel Moore, Theophilus Phillips (L. S.) John Stevens, (L. S.) Andrew Smith, (L. S.) John Temple. Recorded May 28th, 1793."

Notwithstanding the laying out of the road to be opened on or before September 1, 1793, it seems not to have been accomplished in fact, at least not through the Barracks building, until 1813, although portions of Front Street were certainly opened between Willow and Delaware Streets prior to that year, because by a deed made in 1809 property was conveyed on the lower side of Front Street, east of the Barracks, one line of which ran to the "Barracks, one line of which ran to the "Barracks lot," and by a deed made in 1811 property was conveyed on the north side of Front Street by a line running from Delaware Street westerly about eighty feet which, of course, did not extend east as far as the "Barracks lot" proper. In view of these facts, and others which will be hereafter mentioned, I am of the opinion that General Stryker was right in his assertion that the street was actually opened through the Barracks in 1813, because: (1) he was an eminent historical authority; (2) he wrote his account 26 years ago and had better facilities than I, at least traditionally, and probably documentary, to enable him to ascertaln the fact; (3) Mr. Raum was not as thorough and accurate as General Stryker. What precedes Mr. Raum's assertion that Front Street was opened west of Willow Street in 1801 is this: Street in 1801 is this: he says the buildings known as White Hall (Old Barracks) were erected by the King as barracks for his officers. This we know is a mistake. The King never erected the Barracks, nor was his permission even asked. They were erected exclusively by the colony and maintained for its defence. True, they housed the soldiers of the King, but were not built exclusively for officers. Then again, in describing the building Mr. Raum says it commenced at Willow Street, extended west toward the State House, thence ran south crossing Front Street, thence taking an easterly direction terminated again at Willow Street, forming three sides of a hollow square. As Front Street, by his own assertion, was not opened until 1801, the Barracks running south in 1758 could not have crossed that street, unless he means they crossed what is now Front Street. The description, if not inaccurate, is certainly loose, Therefore I say that General Stryker's date should be given the preference, and as no information is obtainable showing any other date as the time of the actual demolition of the walls of the building to admit of the extension of Front Street, that year, 1813, should, I think, unhesitatingly be accepted as the true date of the event.

It must be a source of pride to Trenton that the Barracks here are the only ones of the five erected that are preserved in anything like original form and appearance. I have made inquiry of gentlemen living in the other cities where barracks were erected, namely, former Chancellor Magle of Elizabeth,

Captain James Parker of Perth Amboy, residences, the brick walls were pi Mr. Henry S. Haines of Burlington, surveyor general of West New Jersey, and Mr. William H. Benedict of New Brunswick, and learn from them that the old barracks in their respective towns are totally demolished, with one exception and that is in Burlington where but fragments of the original structure remain. These remnants of Structure remain. These remnants of barracks are incorporated into St. Paul's Catholle Church and Parochial School, Burlington. They consist of the extreme end of the wings of the barracks, one being the rear portion of the church and the other the rear of the school. The barracks there, unlike those at Trenton, were built of brick instead of stone. Mr. Francis B. Lee and I visited Burlington and Inspected the remains of its barracks in company with Mr. Henry S. Haines, during the month of December last (1910). Mr. Lee gave it as his opinion that the reason the Burlington harracks were built of bricks was because bricks were manufactured in that locality at that time and no stone quarries existed in the neighborhood. At Trenton, as we know, there are numerous quarries. we know, there are numerous qualifies one or more of which were open in pre-revolutionary days.

Besides the old mansion on the

corner, that part of the Barracks which was the north wing proper is now incorporated into the three dwelling houses to the west of the mansion, being Nos. 106, 108 and 110 West Front Street. The two houses adjoining the mansion are under the original Barracks' roof is as plainly to be seen by a mere inspection, and by comparison with the roof on the old building which is intact on the south side of the street. The most westerly from Street and bullt above the original Barracks roof. The lower west wall however, of this building and the rear walls of all of them are of the

original structure of 1758.

It will be noticed by even a casual observer that the front wall of the mansion and the two adjoining houses on the west are of brick instead of stone, and the question arises: were the buildings thus constructed originally, or were they altered at or after the time of the extension of Front Street? Mr. Jules S. Ferriot, a mason builder of this city, at my request made a careful inspection of these buildings and gives it as his unqualified opinion that the brick walls were not originally incorporated in them, but were put in afterwards. This, coupled with General Stryker's assertion that the building was "entirely of stone, seems to abundantly show that the brick walls must have been of later origin than the structure itself. Another evidence that the brick walls were put in at or after the alteration of the Barracks is this: When the change was made a new front wall had to be supplied to the most westerly part of the building on the north side of Front Street, and the wall when built extended into the street on a line with the officers' quarters on the east, leaving the intermediate building a few feet back in recess, as the two houses feet pack in recess, as the two houses composing it exist today. The front of the most westerly house wall was of brick Maj. Samuel S. Armstrong has informed me, and says he well remembers his father, the late Horatio G. Armstrong, covering it with stucco and raising the roof another story in the year 1863.

My theory is that when Front Street was extended and the north wing of the Barracks including the officers' quarters was detached and turned into the fronts by the then owner or ow to give them a more modern app ance and to dissociate them as n as possible from the old Barrack as possible from the old ballack which they had been an integral j little dreaming that that associa would be a desideratum in fu generations.

A matter barely mentioned, which is of interest, is the fact the Barracks have been known to s extent as White Hall. Reference them by that name is to be found quently in old conveyances. Los in his Field Book of the Revolut in his field fook of the revolution vol. 2, page 244, makes mention the building by that name and pra sketch of it made by himself w on his visit to Trenton in search historic data in the year 1849.

Some of the pictures of the Old E racks that have heretofore appear have shown it with plain walls runr from the ground to the overhang eves of its roof, and some have sho it with a balcony between the first second stories on the inner sides of square. That the balcony existed th is the most cogent proof. A glance the walls facing north and cast of detached portion on the south side Front Street will disclose the ends sawed off joists on a line with second floor. These joists are close gether and thus gave the balcony gr strength, which was required. T fact, coupled with the pictures wh amount to corroborating evidence, tablish, beyond doubt the fact of existence of the balcony in the ea days of the structure, and, therefore have had the balcony incorporated in the drawing which I send you. A other thing: Mr. MacGinnis, who dr the picture, discovered the exact nu behr of posts that supported the be cony and has correctly reproduct them. Their marks are still visil under the eves of the remaining roand indicate the entire number original nally existing.

Before leaving the subject I desi to express my thanks to Judge Garr D. W. Vroom, Francis B. Lec, Esq., a William Nelson, Esq., corresponding secretary of the New Jersey Historic Society, for valuable information as suggestions with reference to the su

ject of this article. I will trespass upon your time to e ploit but a single other thought, an one for which I claim no originality one that has been rather wished the hoped for, but one that is perfect feasible, and may some day he an a complished reality. It is the restore tion of the old Barracks to their orig nal condition. Independence Hall, thistoric old State House in Philade phia has been restored, why not the o Barracks at Trenton?

In my address at the unveiling of th tablets I took occasion to remark, the in a humble way it may be said the this building bears something of th same relation to Trenton as does th Tower of London to the historic city of that name. We cannot hoast that this that faine. We cannot soon that the stronghold has never fallen into the hands of a foreign foe, as Englan proudly boasts of her Tower, but w may with pride allude to the fact tha within these walls no such frightfu scenes of blood and carnage have been enacted as in that gloomy fortress or the banks of the River Thames. With us, quite differently, these bloodles Barracks are associated with hallowed memorles of the Revolution.

Think of the possibilities to be de-rived from a restoration of this his-toric structure! Within its walls, hight be instituted an armory, as in the Town of London, where various weapons used in warfare night be exhibited, especially weapons which of historic value in themselves. Meetings of patriotic societies could be there icid, and innumerable other uses and idvantages could be attained. These, are but suggestions. This is a fact: If these Barracks were restored they would comprise one of the most, if not the most, historic building, in the State of New Jersey! Is this not a matter in which not only the citizens of Trenton but the citizens of the state should take an interest? Are not the old Barracks something for the people of New Jersey to cherish with pride? At least, the Barracks as they sow exist will be preserved, and I cannot. I think, more fittingly conclude. held, and innumerable other uses and oot, I think, more fittingly conclude this article than to again quote from my address at the unveiling of the tablet and say:

If in the calm that succeeded the storm—if during the period that followed the revolutionary struggle—the supporters and defenders of our counrry, weary of the conflict, turned their hearts and minds to other things, and permitted the ravages of time to obliterate many an object of historic in-terest, we, their descendants, atone for their sins of omission, and, fired with an unalterable zeal, are resolved, that, every remaining relic shall be pre-ceived—a sacred altar! at whose shring

In this spirit these Barracks will be moserved:—pr served in the name of their wherst —pr served in the name of their wherst—for all time and for fill the needer of their ownerst—for all time and for fill the needer of this connecting the martial past with the peaceful present.

Trenton Ebening Times. FOUNDED 1882

"THE OLD BARRACKS."

Vice Chancellor Edwin Robert Walout of the "Barracks," or "White Mount as, unlevel, there still is as to

1 Halbers better wat bill in which

portion of the Barracks standing on storing the "Old Barracks," the northerly side of Front Street, is the addition which the late General Stryker says was built in December. 1758, to be used as quarters for the officers who were in command of the troops stationed at the Barracks. Trained lawyer that he is, the Vice hancellor was not content to draw onclusions from tradition, but has fortified every statement with docu-

mentary, and what may be regarded as almost contemporary, evidence that is:

proces conclusively that the build-ing plans, for enlarging the Capital his on the northwest corner of Front site, is an appropriate time for it to and Willow Streets, and adjoining the make provision for acquiring and re-

In brief, Mr. Walker shows that the Barracks were built in 1758, and partially occupied in December of that ear; that the land and the buildings, (including the officers' quarters) cost C3.487, 0s, 11d; that the buildings were entirely of stone and extended across West Front Street; that the northerly nd of the building, and the addition used by the officers, are still standing. though considerably changed from their riginal appearance; that the buildings were successively occupied by British troops, Hessians, Provincial reruits, Tory refugees, by Continental ine, State Militia and their French illies; that the extension of West Front Street was authorized in 1793 but not perfected until 1813; and that the Trenton Barracks are the only ones of the five erected at the same time. that are preserved in anything like original form and appearance,

Mr. Walker's communication bears evidence of long and painstaking investigation, in which he had the assistance of a number of persons to whom he makes acknowledgement. It will dispose effectually of considerable misinformation that the public has gathered concerning Trenton's historic building. His suggestion that the Baracks be restored to their original condition will receive the hearty endorsement of all Trentonians, who will join in the queries: "Is this not a matter in which not only the citizens of Trenton but the citizens of the State should take an interest? Are not the old Barracks something for the people of New Jersey to cherish with pride?

The State is caring for the Washfaticld; buildings at Rocky Hill and mice for monuments and tablets to ak historic spots, none of which 113 Now when the State is make



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